

The Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association  
Annual Meeting of Members  
Chassell Township School  
41585 Highway US 41 Chassell, MI 49916  
Saturday, June 17, 2023

The Annual Meeting of Members of the Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association was held at the Chassell High School on June 17, 2023. The President, William "Bill" Hodges, called the meeting to order at 10:07, asked all to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, then welcomed the members.

President Hodges then introduced himself and asked the board members to stand as he introduced them. He also introduced other representatives of Ontonagon REA, asked them to stand, then invited past directors, retirees or employees to stand and be recognized as well. He then asked for a round of applause as a showing of appreciation for their commitment and service.

Secretary Ann Gasperich reported there was no need for an election committee. Mike Urbis in District 2, Ewen/Trout Creek/Lake Mine ran unopposed and I, Mildred Ann Gasperich District 6, Boston also ran unopposed. Both will serve for another three years. She did thank Paulette Broulette for her work on the last election, and also thanked her for her great job in spreading the work about the meeting today.

Gasperich then read the proof of mailing.

Attorney Greeley reported there are sixty-nine members present. This does constitute a quorum for today's meeting. He then asked all refer to the handout of the minutes, as he would entertain a motion to dispense with the reading.

**Motion/Second**-- Dan Shamion made a motion that the reading of the 2018 minutes, and notes of last year's meeting be dispensed with as there were copies available to read, seconded by Lin Lehto. Motion passed.

Mr. Greeley talked about the main purpose of the Annual meeting is to provide important information to the members, and stated we have several reports. He called on President Hodges to proceed.

President Hodges stated the past four years, the books and business practices of Ontonagon REA has been examined by an independent auditing firm. For all four years, the cooperative received an audit report which verifies the cooperative's books are in order, best practices are being employed by management, and all transactions for the past three years are appropriate and properly accounted for.

Eugene Soumis gave the financial report of the cooperative. The complete report is available on the website.

Mark Urbis gave the Line Superintendents report. He spoke to the dangers of the job, reviewed the new equipment purchases, we had 44 new services built, installed 1500 new vision meters, replaced over 20 poles, cleared 317 miles of vegetation along pole lines, processed 151 member reported tree tickets, removed 1,110 danger trees. He also spoke to the difference between a service outage and a supplier outage. Service outages are when we have a problem on or within the Ontonagon REA system. These are the types of outages we can correct. Supplier outages, are just that. No electricity is being delivered into our system. Those are the outages we do not have any control over. When you see a work crew patiently waiting at an outage location, they are waiting on the supply to be restored.

Eugene Soumis, General Manager, completed the presentations with the slide show.

There being no old business, the meeting moved on to new business.

There being no new business, the meeting moved on to questions and answers. President Hodges, General Manager Soumis and Attorney Greeley were able to answer most questions on the spot. All questions that were turned in at the meeting will be listed with answers on the website.

President Hodges worked the drawing for prizes, provided instructions for lunch and the meeting adjourned at 11:45.